Baloch and Sindhis

Concession offered for joining army

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1: The government on Friday disclosed that 10,000 positions in armed forces are currently vacant for the residents of Balochistan and interior of Sindh.

"The people of these areas are not joining army," Chaudhry Khurshid Zaman, parliamentary secretary for defence, told the National Assembly on Friday. He asked the parliamentarians to motivate the people of these areas to join the defence services.

He said that the government had offered special concessions to the people of Balochistan and interior of Sindh to join army but they were still not interested to join it.

The selection criteria for Balochistan and interior of Sindh was also lenient as compared to Punjab and NWFP, only to encourage the people of these areas to get recruited, he added. Zaman explained that criteria for Punjab and NWFP required matriculation as the minimum qualification and 5 feet 6 inches as the least height. However, in case of Balochistan and interior of Sindh the minimum qualification had been reduced to middle and least height had been brought down to 5 feet and 4 inches.

Zaman was responding to a question of Shakeel Ahmed, MNA who was interested in knowing whether the government was planning to establish more army recruitment centres in Balochistan. Zaman said the government was opening up new centres but without getting adequate response.

He said unlike Punjab and NWFP, mobile teams of local commanders were constituted in these areas to recruit in places where army selection and recruitment centres were not located.

Currently, he said, a total of four army selection and recruitment centre were operating in Balochistan. These included two in Quetta and one each in Loralai and Khuzdar.

He disclosed that opening of an additional recruitment centre at Turbat was currently under consideration of the government and was likely to be established during this year.